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Recommended Citation

Bond, Kelsey, "Renowned poet Nathalie Handal to present reading at Ouachita Sept. 17" (2015). *Press Releases*. Paper 146.
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OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

For Immediate Release

Renowned poet Nathalie Handal to present reading at Ouachita Sept. 17

By Kelsey Bond

September 3, 2015

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University's Department of Language and Literature will host world-renowned literary scholar Nathalie Handal in a poetry reading at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. The reading will be held in Hickingbotham Hall's Young Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

A noted poet, playwright and travel writer, Handal's works have been translated into more than 15 languages. She currently serves as professor of creative writing at Columbia University in New York. She has lived in Latin America, France and the Arab world and was educated in the U.K. and the U.S.

Pleiades literary journal called Handal "a brilliant poet. She is a chronicler of the human condition and a philosopher of the most lyrical reaches."

The reading will provide a unique experience for those seeking to expand their cultural horizons, especially for those with an interest in the arts, language or travel. For Ouachita students, it will also fulfill an Art Series credit.

"Much like a rare tapestry, Nathalie Handal's diverse cultural, linguistic and experiential backgrounds are woven into her poetry," said Dr. Raouf Halaby, professor emeritus of visual arts and English. "We are very fortunate to have an acclaimed poet, dramatist and film critic visit our campus."

"Because Ouachita seeks to be a diverse entity and because Nathalie Handal is diversity personified, her coming to us will enrich our estate," added Dr. Johnny Wink, OBU's Betty Burton Peck Professor of English.

"Her recent smashing reading at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., attests to her ability to articulate the collective voice of the human experience," Halaby noted. "Love, harmony, hope, displacement and identity" are themes he expects Handal to highlight in her reading at Ouachita.

Handal holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry from Bennington College in Vermont and a Master of Philosophy degree in English and drama from Queen Mary College in London. She also has studied contemporary literature in Russia, France, Spain, Latin America and the Middle East, has earned numerous literary awards in the U.S. and worldwide and has been published in numerous anthologies and magazines.

For more information about Handal, visit <http://www.nathaliehandal.com>. For more information on Ouachita's Department of Language and Literature, contact Dr. Doug Sonheim, department chair, at sonheimd@obu.edu or (870) 245-5554.

PHOTO OF HANDAL AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

AT <http://www.obu.edu/news/2015/09/03/renowned-poet-nathalie-handal-to-present-reading-at-ouachita-sept-17>.